

World Geography
U.S. and Canada
Urban Development

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Table 1
Largest Cities in 1950 and 2015 (estimate)
Population in Millions

Column A: 1950		Column B: 2015	
<u>City</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Population</u>
Calcutta	4.4	Jakarta	21.2
Buenos Aires	5.0	Bombay/Mumbai India	27.4
Tokyo	6.9	Mexico City	18.8
Paris	5.4	Shanghai	23.4
Moscow	5.4	Tokyo	28.7
New York	12.3	Dhaka, Bangladesh	19.0
Essen	5.3	Karachi, Pakistan	20.6
London	8.7	Beijing	19.4
Chicago	4.9	Lagos, Nigeria	24.4
Shanghai	5.3	Sao Paulo	20.8

Directions: Create a table that lists the cities in 1950 from largest to smallest. Do the same for 2015 (see example below). Make two tables, one for each column, with these headings: *City, Country, Continent, Population*. After creating the charts, locate the cities on the world map that's provided., and answer the questions.

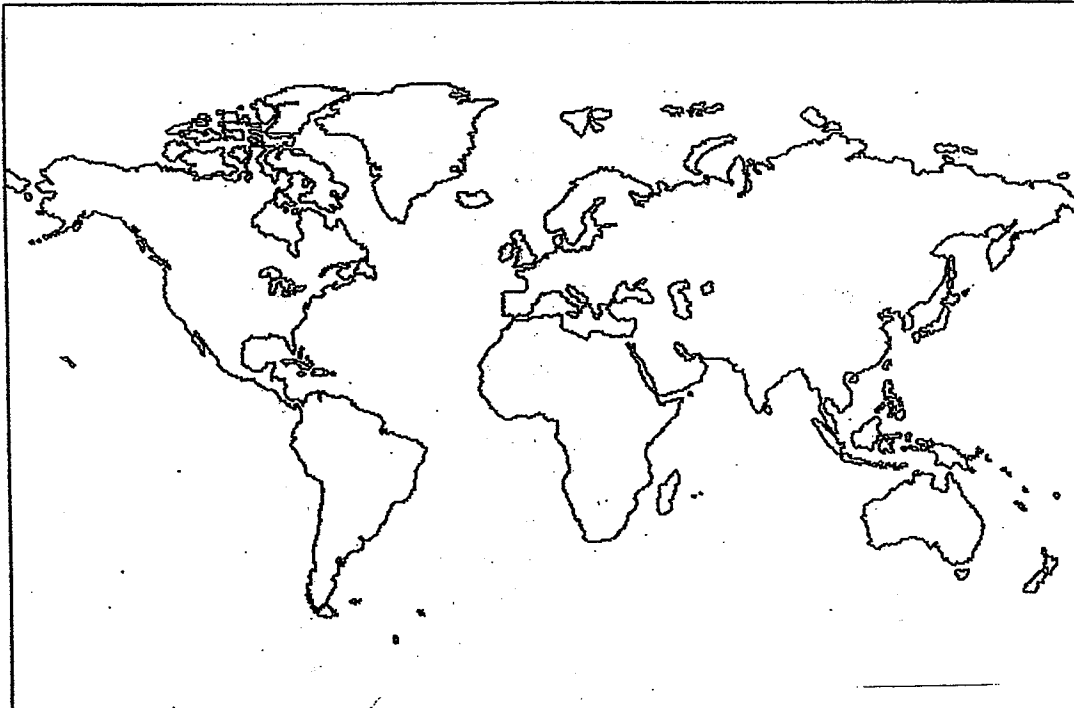
Example Chart:

1950

<u>City</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Continent</u>	<u>Population</u>
1. New York	USA	North America	12.3
2. London	UK		

OVER

Label the locations of the cities, one color for 1950 and a different color for 2015.



Answer the following questions after creating the charts and labeling the map:

1. What is the average size of cities in 1950? 2015?
2. 1950: List the 1950 cities in the chart below. Then color each square according to the continent on which it can be found.

Asia = red; Europe = orange; North America = blue; South America = yellow

2015: list the 2015 cities in the chart below. Then color each square according to the continent on which it can be found.

Asia = red; Europe = orange; North America = blue; South America = yellow; Africa = green

3. On your own sheet of paper, draw conclusions after examining the data. Compare 1950 to 2015.

The New York Times

World

Squalid Slums Grow as People Flood Latin America's Cities

By NATHANIEL C. NASH
Published: October 11, 1992

In March, 600 families invaded land that had once been a garbage dump on the southern outskirts of Lima, making a settlement by building straw huts overnight. The police moved in repeatedly, evicting the families and leveling the huts, but the settlers came back each time.

The invasion, like others throughout Latin America, had a predictable result: six months later, the 400-acre tract is a teeming shantytown with 10,000 residents who are lobbying the city to give each family title to its own piece of dusty ground 20 feet wide by 40 feet long.

Despite the grinding poverty, Peruvians seeking a better life have been fleeing the countryside for Lima at the rate of more than a thousand a day and building settlements like this one, a seemingly endless expanse of small straw huts brushed constantly by a gritty wind next to a noisy highway. ~~CONCRETE HIGHWAY~~

And even though the Peruvian Government is celebrating the blow dealt the Shining Path guerrilla movement by the capture of its founder, Abimael Guzman Reynoso, experts warn that it will be hard to wipe out the terrorist group if the country cannot address the overcrowding, poverty, lack of health care and other symptoms of the deep gap between rich and poor that are so visible in this settlement, problems that caused the message of the Shining Path to fall on relatively fertile ground.

"The demand in Lima for a piece of land is so great it can't be stopped," said Pedro Ublitas, general secretary of the settlement. "The authorities call us terrorists and criminals. They bring the police in and threaten us. But they don't realize we need space for our families."

Forty years after Latin Americans started a great migration to their cities, this shantytown full of barefoot children and idle men illustrates what is perhaps the most serious problem facing the continent: excessive urbanization and the bitter fruit it is bearing.

Latin America is the most urbanized part of the underdeveloped world. In 1950, only 42 percent of Latin Americans were city dwellers; today almost 73 percent live in cities, according to the United Nations. This compares with 34 percent in Africa and 33 percent in Asia.

The trend has created megacities throughout the continent: Buenos Aires, with 12 million out of 32 million Argentines; Santiago, with 5 million out of 13 million Chileans; Lima, with 7 million out of 22 million Peruvians, and Mexico City, the world's biggest city, with more than 20 million of the country's 90 million people.

In many countries the equation is similar: the major city attracts one-quarter to one-third of the country's population, with many living in squalid slums or shantytowns encircling the affluent inner city. While the percentage of city dwellers is close to that in the United States, where 75 percent of the population lives in cities, the Latin American example has produced a host of economic and social ills. ~~THE~~

~~IT IS A TIME BOMB~~
In such concentrations of humanity, the migrants from the countryside have found crushingly disappointing economic opportunities, alarming levels of pollution, uncontrollable crime, and the nearly free movement of terrorists and other violent groups. The political unrest these problems produce becomes at times a potent weapon for demagogues.

"It was really ironic for those of us who went to the Rio summit," said Alfredo Gastal, director of the United Nations Office of Environment and Human Settlement in Santiago, referring to the world environmental conference in Rio de Janeiro in June. "Everyone there was worrying about trees and rain forests, and they were in the city that best exemplifies the worst problem in Latin America, and nothing was said about it."

This Lima shantytown, called Susana Higushi after the wife of President Alberto K. Fujimori, embodies all the woes of Latin American over-urbanization. "The city has grown like a wild animal without any kind of planning," said Eduardo Ballon, an urbanization specialist. "Lima is a time bomb."

In the six months since the land grab, the shantytown has organized itself for self-defense and to lobby for land titles, but its municipal services are almost nonexistent. Water is brought in in barrels. Electricity comes from the few car batteries that residents manage to pick up. City authorities do not collect trash and garbage, because to do so would be to acknowledge the legitimacy of the settlement. So residents dump it by the side of the road.

Barefoot children shout and play in the streets while the men, having no work, congregate around makeshift bars where they play cards or quietly chat. In the tiny market, where vendors sell squash, bananas, fish, salt, rice and beans, the talk was that there was no money and that no one was buying.

"We're just sitting here day after day, waiting for things to change," said Flor, who came here from Ayacucho. She would not give her last name. The Summer Is Due, And With It Disease

While residents say they live in fear that Shining Path will infiltrate the settlement, their biggest concern now is the coming of the Southern Hemisphere's summer. With no electricity, running water or sewage system, they see summer as a time of disease and death.

The settlement has just one tiny medical post, and it has only small stocks of medicines. Over the last two years, Peruvians have been

shocked by a cholera epidemic that has infected more than 500,000 people and killed 3,500. The disease hit hardest in the cities, where it was almost solely a plague of the poor. But there are other sicknesses -- tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis -- that many fear just as much.

Latin American urbanization experts like Mr. Gastal say they are concerned by two trends. Though the rate of growth of the cities has slowed, they say, rural dwellers will continue flocking to them well into the next century, when they could hold 85 to 90 percent of the people. The countryside then will be all but empty.

Just as alarming, population experts are finding that middle-sized cities are also growing quickly, putting a heavy burden on local governments less able to cope with the misery of overcrowding. And the urban sprawl is linking giant cities. Experts say that by the year 2010, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo will be one continuous megalopolis 350 miles long with almost 40 million people.

The current urban growth rate, experts say, means that every year 8 million to 10 million people are either going to cities or being born in cities in the nations south of the United States, most into conditions not unlike those at the Lima shantytown.

"They all should have light, heat, water, medical attention, education, transportation," said Jorge E. Hardoy, director of the Latin American chapter of the International Institute of Environment and Development. "But that is simply impossible. This is why you start with the problems we are seeing." ~~There is no money to do it.~~

The institute estimates that Lima has to absorb 400,000 new people every year; Sao Paulo 450,000, and Buenos Aires 100,000. The strains are evident in every major city.

In Santiago, there is no water treatment plant for industrial or home waste, and no government regulations prohibit the dumping of toxic chemicals by industries.

In Rio de Janeiro, the affluent live behind iron fences and barred windows to protect themselves from rampant street crime. In Caracas, Venezuela, the masses of poor have rallied behind a leader of failed coup attempts against the Government, reflecting their desperation over tough economic policies.

In Mexico City, one of the world's most polluted cities, residents are choked by smog from overcrowding and excessive industrialization. It is estimated that only 40 percent of the 20 million residents have running water and that only 30 percent have sewers.

If the problems can be addressed through government policies and private enterprise, the trend is not necessarily all bad. Many of the nations are experiencing a fundamental change from agricultural economies to economies based more on industry and service, and the recent renewed trend toward stable economies could bring about a decade of job growth. Also, health care and education tend to be better even in the poorest areas of the cities than in the countryside. But problems seem certain to mount.

"We are seeing an incredible social apartheid here," said Herbert de Souza, executive director of the Brazil Institute for Social and Economic Analysis in Rio de Janeiro. "More and more the middle class and the rich have to live isolated from the vast masses of poor, who face violence, sickness and hopelessness." Many are warning that it will not take much to mobilize these masses into a potent and perhaps violent political force. **Shining Path Feeds Rush to the Cities**

At the Susana Higushi shantytown, the specter of the Shining Path looms large, though few residents would discuss it. The settlement sits below another shantytown, settled years ago, that has a strong Shining Path presence. Many here think it is only a matter of time before the guerrillas come.

"Everyone thinks everyone is a terrorist," Mr. Ublitas said. "I've been accused of being a terrorist because I am trying to organize here. You just have to go on with your life. They will eventually come and try to do something here. But I think the people will resist."

As in other nations, people flocked to this capital from the countryside in the 1950's and 1960's in search of better jobs, education and health care.

At first, jobs were plentiful. But in the 1980's Peru's Government, like other Latin American governments caught in the debt crisis and rising inflationary spiral, cut off almost all industrial growth. Investment plunged, and poverty began to rise again.

Peru had an added problem: the growing Shining Path violence in the Andean region. The peasants there were caught in the middle, with many killed by either the guerrillas or the army. This created a wave of refugees.

"They were coming to Lima just to survive, not to better their lives," said Mr. Ballon, the urbanization specialist.

Lima had other problems, in particular a lack of city planning and a weak municipal government. Services collapsed from lack of investment and guerrilla sabotage. In the city, 58 percent of the water produced by the state water company is lost, and 20 percent of those who have water obtain it illegally. When water and electricity are rationed, usually as a result of Shining Path sabotage, they are unevenly distributed, with the rich sections getting more than the poor ones.

Now Peru, like other countries, finds that its secondary cities are exploding too. Arequipa, Ilo and Cusco are all expanding at 5 to 8 percent a year.

"The big cities do not offer the same attractions they offered 10 years ago," said Francisco Leon, a United Nations economist. "They are saturated, so people are turning to intermediate cities, but that creates new problems. Where do you get money to provide basic services? You have many of these places that are essentially going from being small villages to complete cities in a matter of years." **Forest Is Falling To the**

Settlers

And there are potentially long-lasting environmental consequences. One casualty of the Susana Higushi settlement is one of Lima's few natural forests: a stately stand of eucalyptus trees in the desert that surrounds the city. On many nights, one or two of the trees are mysteriously cut down, expanding the borders of the shantytown and at the same time slowly destroying one of the few remaining barriers in Lima to total desertification.

The settlement continues to grow with the arrival of people like Fernando Ortiz, who stood outside his straw hut one day pulling nails out of boards that he planned to use to shore up the structure. He and his wife, Maleni, fled Ayacucho, the cradle of the Shining Path, arriving about a month ago. They had given up a good school for their daughter, a clean hospital and a home with electricity and running water for a patch of dust and a hope that they could avoid guerrilla violence.

Mrs. Ortiz said she was so troubled by the violence that she did not mind losing those amenities. The only thing she really laments, she said, is that her daughter is not speaking her native Quechua, and will inevitably lose much of the cultural heritage of the Indians of the Peruvian Andes.

"In the sierras the people are very strong and alive, and you can feel it in the language," she said. "Here in the city, a lot of that disappears."

But as her husband pointed out, that was a small price to pay. "Many of us don't have a choice," he said. "This is the best we can do right now."

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New York Times Reading Questions

1. What is happening outside of Lima?
2. What are the people of the shanty town doing to legitimize their settlement?
3. How many more people must South America's largest cities absorb every year?
4. List problems people in the slums are facing.
5. Why are secondary cities exploding?
6. Why do people go to the cities?
7. What are people worried will be lost in the cities?
8. What environmental impact do the cities have?
9. Write 3-4 sentences which summarize the situation of people living in slums outside Latin America's largest cities.
10. After watching the video about Rio de Janeiro explain what problem the major city is facing. How are they going to fix the problem?
11. What environmental impact will this have?